

Ambulance Based Clinician (ABC) Curriculum

***The following curriculum is a guide for EMS Agencies affiliating a licensed registered nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, or physician assistant seeking certification as Ambulance Based Clinician (ABC) to provide medical care during prehospital transport or interfacility transfers. The curriculum can vary in the specific content of each bullet point and clinician to clinician based on the ABC scope of practice credentialed by the medical director and the agency's licensing, operations, and equipment.**

Topics to be covered are:

- Introduction to Emergency Medical Care
- Medical, Legal and Ethical Issues
- Scene Size-up
- Lifting and Moving Patients
- Special Patient Care Considerations
- Communication and Documentation
- Ambulance Operation and Orientation

Introduction to Emergency Medical Care

This section is meant to familiarize the ABC with the introductory aspects of emergency medical care. Topics covered include the Emergency Medical Services system, roles and responsibilities of the ABC, quality improvement and medical direction.

- Differentiate the roles and responsibilities of the ABC from other prehospital care providers
- Describe the roles and responsibilities related to personal safety while providing care in the back of the ambulance
- Discuss the roles and responsibilities of the ABC towards the safety of the crew, patient, and bystanders
- Define medical direction and discuss the ABC's role in the process.

Medical, Legal and Ethical Issues

This section explores the scope of practice, ethical responsibilities, advance directives, consent, refusals, abandonment, negligence, duty to act, confidentiality, and special situations such as organ donors and crime scenes. Medical, legal and ethical issues can be unique to the prehospital setting.

- Review the specific statutes and regulations in Idaho regarding ABCs and the EMS system in IDAPA 16.01.03.
- Define and review the ABC's Scope of Practice provided by the medical director.
- Review the importance of Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)/Advance Directives and local or state provisions regarding EMS application.
- Review the different forms of consent and discuss the methods of obtaining consent.
- Review the issues of abandonment, negligence, and battery and their implications to the ABC.
- Discuss scene safety and the importance of assisting in the preservation of a crime scene when applicable.
- State the conditions that require an ABC to notify local law enforcement officials.

Scene Size-up

This section is meant to enhance the ABC's ability to evaluate the scene for potential hazards, make the decision if additional help is necessary based on the number and severity of the patients on scene, and evaluate mechanism of injury or nature of illness.

- Discuss potential hazards that the ABC may encounter on scene.
- Describe what the ABC should do if there is reason to believe that the call involves a hazardous material. Review Emergency Response Guide and how to use it.
- Talk about special considerations to be made at the scene of a traumatic accident vs. a medical call.
- Discuss the reason for identifying the need for additional help/resources i.e. law enforcement or assistance from the local Fire Department.

Lifting and Moving Patients

The purpose of this section is to give ABCs an understanding of prehospital principles of moving patients and an overview of equipment, lifting/carrying techniques, and body mechanics used to move patients in the prehospital setting. Prehospital practical skills of lifting and moving should be developed during this section.

- Describe the safe lifting of cots and stretchers used by your agency.
- Describe the guidelines and safety precautions for carrying patients and/or equipment.
- Describe the correct and safe carrying procedure on stairs; demonstrate and familiarize with EMS equipment.
- Discuss the general considerations of moving a patient and discuss situations that may require the use of an emergency move.
- Identify the various patient movement and carrying devices that are available for the ABC to use while working on the ambulance. (The ABC should be able to safely demonstrate the use of each.)

Patient Care Considerations

This section is meant to align procedures and review equipment in a prehospital or transfer setting as it applies to the approved scope of practice for the ABC. They should know how to operate all the equipment that lies within their Scope of Practice.

- Identify equipment, useable cabinets on the ambulance and current inventory/uses.
- Review procedures that EMS crew members will utilize and align knowledge and expectations for working as a team. Examples:
 - o the steps of a rapid trauma assessment and when the use of one is appropriate.
 - o indications and EMS equipment for splinting of joints and long bone injuries, including traction splints and vacuum splints (if available for the ABC to use).
 - o how to rule out the need for the use of a backboard on a trauma patient and the criteria the patient must meet.
- Identify what medications (within the ABC SOP) including delivery methods with EMS equipment/availability.

Communication and Documentation

This section is meant to familiarize the ABC with the components of a communication system, radio communications, communication with medical direction, interpersonal communication, and quality improvement. This section is also meant to introduce the ABC to the agency's documentation policies and practices as well as the importance of precise and correct documentation.

- Discuss the proper method of initiating and terminating a radio call. Provide a list of phone numbers the ABC might need to use for reporting.
- State the proper security and sequence for delivery of patient information (HIPAA).
- Identify the essential components of the verbal report given to the receiving hospital.
- Explain the rationale for providing efficient and effective radio communication and patient reports.
- Demonstrate a concise patient report that would be given to the staff at a receiving facility.
- Explain the expectations of the written report and list the information that should be included in the written report.
- Describe what information is required in each section of the prehospital care report and how it should be entered.
- Define the special considerations concerning patient refusal.
- Describe the legal implications associated with the written report.
- Discuss all state and or local record and reporting requirements.

Ambulance Operations and Orientation

This section is meant to present an overview of the knowledge needed to function in the prehospital environment. Topics covered include responding to call, emergency vehicle operations, and the phases of an ambulance call. This section is also where the ABC should become oriented to the equipment available to them in the patient compartment of the ambulance.

- Review the location and proper storage of equipment and supplies found on the ambulance.
- Identify medication protocols (within the ABC SOP) on the ambulance and where they are located.
- Discuss the medical and non-medical equipment needed to respond to a call. Review steps taken to notify dispatch of response, scene and destination arrivals.
- List the phases of an ambulance call.
- Describe the general provisions of state laws relating to the operation of the ambulance and privileges in any or all the following categories: speed, warning lights, sirens, right-of-way, parking, turning.
- Discuss "Due Regard for the Safety of All Others" while operating an emergency vehicle.